The Act is being implemented by the District Appropriate Authorities along with the cooperation of District Advisory Committees.

Law to ban the use of tobacco, etc.

1128. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether facing criticism for its lax attitude in curtailing sales of contaminated food products, his Ministry is contemplating on bringing out a public health law;

(b) if so, whether this law would give enough powers to Government to announce a ban on any health hazards like tobacco, cigarettes, chemicals which causes bio-terrorism and even colas, if these are found guilty of causing diseases; and

(c) if so, what are the other features of the proposed law and by when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. There is no specific proposal at present to bring out a public health law in this Ministry, although there is a proposal to bring out a public health emergencies legislation.

(b) and (c) The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 which came into force on 1st May, 2004 is comprehensive legislation in so far as tobacco is concerned and gives enough powers to Government to control tobacco use and reduce its health hazards.

The Government of India is engaged in preparation of the draft "Public Health Emergencies Bill" which will address potential challenges to tackle public health emergencies in the country arising as result of disasters and bio-terrorism activities etc.